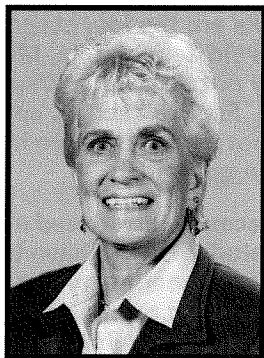


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



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CELEBRATE MICHIGAN'S RICH HISTORY OF FAIRS AND FESTIVALS Fairs and festivals have long been a part of Michigan's agricultural history. The first county fairs were held for farm families to showcase the best of their livestock, crops, and personal works of art. Today, fairs and festivals remain a popular destination for many families during the summer season. Whether you enjoy the carnival rides, delicious food, or 4-H exhibits, the state's fairs and festivals have much to offer everyone. The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) often provides support services for the state's fairs and festivals, including financial contributions, food safety inspections, and groundwater management. For more information about Michigan's fairs and festivals, including a complete list of events in your area, visit the Fairs, Racing and Recreation link on the MDA's website at www.michigan.gov/mda.

DID YOU KNOW? The first Michigan State Fair was held in 1848; however, county fairs were in existence long before that. There are currently two state fairs, seven county fairs, and 79 smaller fairs and festivals held throughout the state during the summer.

CHILD PROTECTION REGISTRY SIGNED INTO LAW The Michigan Legislature recently created a way for parents to further protect their children from inappropriate material on the Internet. According to Unspam, an advocacy organization for effective anti-spam laws, 80% of children online report receiving inappropriate unsolicited e-mail messages on a daily basis. The Child Protection Registry, created by Public Act 241 of 2004, allows parents to register their minor child's electronic contacts, such as e-mail addresses and instant messenger screen names, with the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG). Under PA 241, a person is prohibited from sending inappropriate communications, such as pornographic advertisements, to those contacts included in the registry. Violators will face criminal and possible civil penalties. The Child Protection Registry is scheduled to be fully operational by July 1, 2005.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH URGES RESIDENTS TO BE CAUTIOUS Temperatures usually rise to high 80s and above during the month of August in Michigan. The state Department of Community Health (MDCH) warns residents to exercise caution when enjoying the summer weather. Many heat-related illnesses occur as a result of increased temperatures and range in severity. Dehydration, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke are the four stages of illness and can be avoided by knowing what the symptoms are and how to prevent them. To avoid dehydration, MDCH advises adults and children to stay hydrated by drinking water frequently, even when you may not be thirsty. Wearing light colored, loose fitting clothing will also help keep you cool during the hot summer days. Fabrics such as cotton allow air to circulate through clothing and to your body and are a good choice for especially hot days. For more information in regard to heat-related illnesses, including prevention tips, please visit www.michigan.gov/mdch.

SENATE WORKS TO FURTHER REDUCE MILITARY HARDSHIPS The Michigan Senate recently introduced a resolution encouraging the state's public colleges and universities to refund money forfeited by students who have been called to serve our country. In many cases, the call to active status takes place very quickly. For a student who has just started an academic term, mobilization to active duty can mean leaving school after tuition, fees, and room and board have been prepaid and after any dates when refunds may be made by the college or university. Therefore, Senate Resolution 283 urges schools to refund tuition, fees, and room and board to any student who is a member of the National Guard or military reserves and who has been called to active duty after an academic term has started. SR 283 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations for consideration.

If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail,
please contact me at SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov